



Standard Operating Procedure Leak Testing Vapor Pin™ Via Mechanical Means

December 3, 2013

Scope:

The operating procedure describes the methodology to test a Vapor Pin™ or equivalent sub-slab sampling device and sample train for leakage of indoor air. Mechanical leak testing is generally simpler and less costly than testing with tracer gases such as helium, but relevant state, program, or other guidance documents should be consulted to determine if a specific type of leak test is needed.

Purpose:

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that indoor air does not leak past the Vapor Pin™ or associated tubing and hardware and dilute the sub-slab soil gas sample with indoor air.

Equipment Needed:

Stick-up installation: 2-inch diameter plastic pipe couple, Play-Doh, Sculpey, or modeling clay (clay) free of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Stick-up and flush-mount installations: distilled water; Vapor Pin™; vacuum pump (hand-operated or peristaltic); vacuum gauge; stopcock; and sample train, including sample tubing, tee fittings, vacuum gauge and other hardware, and sample container.

Procedures:

1. Drill a 5/8" diameter hole in the concrete slab and install the Vapor Pin™ as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). For a flush-mount installation, drill the 1-1/2" diameter hole first, and follow Use of the Vapor Pin™ Drilling Guide and Secure Cover. Testing evacuated ("Summa") canisters and regulators in accordance with ASTM standard D7663-11 or Restek Corporation's *A Guide to Whole Air Canister Sampling* prior to starting field work eliminates most risk of leakage when sampling with the Vapor Pin™.
2. Install the Vapor Pin™ as described in the SOP Installation and Extraction of the Vapor Pin™.
3. Clean the slab within a 2-inch radius of the Vapor Pin™ to remove all dust. Avoid wetting the concrete or wait until the concrete is dry before proceeding, and avoid cleaning with VOC-containing substances. A whisk broom or shop vacuum is recommended. Remaining dust can be picked up with a scrap of clay.

4. For a flush-mount installation, water is poured directly into the 1-1/2" depression without the need for a water dam - proceed to the next step. For a stick-up installation, roll a 1-inch diameter ball of clay between your palms to form a "snake" approximately 7 inches long and press it against the end of the 2" pipe couple. Push the couple against the slab to form a seal between the pipe and the concrete. Notice that water soluble clays such as Play-Doh may absorb enough water to be unsuitable for tests lasting more than one hour.

5. Assemble the sample train (tubing, sample canister, tee fittings, stopcock, vacuum pump, etc.) separately from the Vapor Pin™ and impose a vacuum of 15" mercury equivalent (in Hg). Close the stopcock and verify that the sample train can hold a vacuum for one to five minutes with no more than 0.5 in Hg loss of vacuum. Depending on sample configuration, the stopcock might or might not remain in the sample train during sampling. An example is shown in Figure 1.

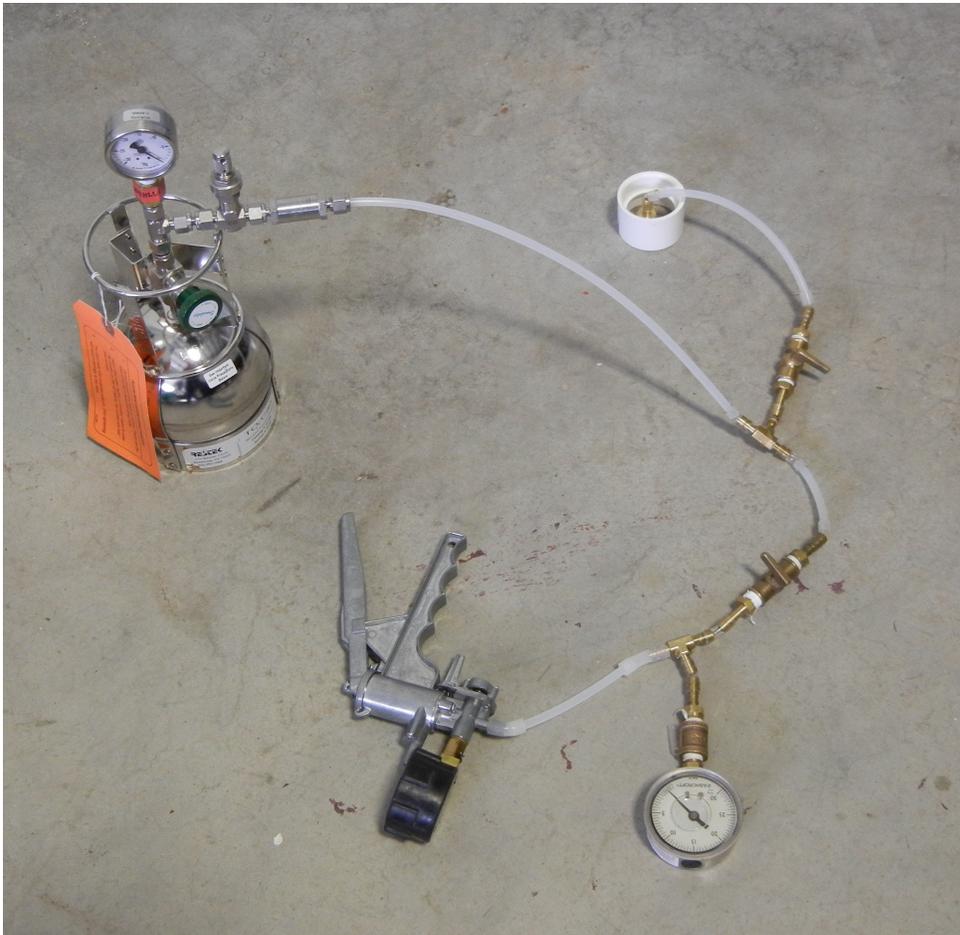


Figure 1. Example of Sub-Slab Sampling and Leak-Test Setup

6. Attach the sample tubing to the top of the Vapor Pin™ and pour enough distilled water into the pipe couple or flush-mount depression to immerse the tubing connection to the Vapor Pin™.
7. Purge and sample the sample point as required by the data quality objectives. Water level might drop slightly due to absorption into the concrete, but if there is a sudden drop in water level, the appearance of water in sample tubing, or other indication of water entering the sub-slab, remove the distilled water from the couple or depression, and reposition the Vapor Pin™ to stop the leakage before resuming the leak test and sampling. In Figure 1, the stopcocks are used to isolate the Vapor Pin™ during vacuum testing and subsequently to allow the vacuum gauge and hand pump to be removed prior to sampling.

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